# Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Jan. 1, 2004 - Dec. 31, 2007

Chairman



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# Responsibilities of the Board

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors establishes county government policy, passes resolutions and ordinances (within the limits of its authority established by the Virginia General Assembly), approves the budget, sets local tax rates, approves land use plans and makes appointments to various positions. These actions are taken in open meetings which citizens are encouraged to attend. All discussions are held in public, with the exception of issues exempt by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, such as legal or personnel issues.

# **Meetings**

Board meetings are open to the public and conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. The chairman presides at Board meetings and has all the rights and duties of other Board members including one vote, but does not have independent executive authority or a legislative veto.

The Board usually meets two Mondays per month in the Board Auditorium in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Citizens with access to the Internet can view and download Board meeting agendas at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/ bdagenda/schedule.htm and summaries of Board actions at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/ main.htm. They can also subscribe to the Weekly Agenda (at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/ lists), a weekly e-mail newsletter which contains links to meeting agendas for the Board of Supervisors, Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission, plus the summary of Board actions.

## **Special Accommodations**

The auditorium is accessible to people with disabilities. In addition to being wheelchair accessible, it also has an audio-enhancement system with multiple receivers that is available for use by people with hearing impairments. For more information on accessibility, call 703-324-2055, TTY 711.

# **Public Hearings**

To speak at a public hearing before the Board, you are encouraged to register in advance with the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903. Lists of scheduled speakers for specific public hearings are posted inside the Board Auditorium.

If you are speaking on your own behalf or speaking for your neighborhood or civic association, you are given three minutes; if you are speaking for an organization whose membership represents an entire supervisory district, you have five minutes; and if you are speaking for a Boardrecognized countywide organization, you have 10 minutes.

The Board Auditorium is equipped with a variety of audiovisual equipment you may use. Arrangements must be made in advance with the clerk's office for use of the equipment.

#### **Public Comment**

Citizens can contact their supervisors at district offices by calling or writing any time, but they can address the Board as a whole during public comment time. Public comment time is scheduled bimonthly, generally as the last public hearing of the day. Citizens and businesses of Fairfax County are encouraged to present their views on issues of concern. The Board will hear public comment on any issue except issues under litiga-

tion, issues which have been scheduled for public hearing before the Board, and personnel matters and/or comments regarding individuals. Each speaker must register in advance and has up to three minutes. A maximum of 10 speakers will be heard. Speakers may address the Board only once during a sixmonth period. For more information and to register, call the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903.

### **Cablecasts**

Monday Board meetings are shown live on Fairfax County's cable Channel 16, and can also be seen live via the Internet at www.fairfaxcounty.gov. A replay of the morning session is aired Tuesday at 8 p.m. and a replay of the entire meeting is aired at 10 a.m. on each Saturday following the Monday meeting.

Channel 16 cablecasts of Board meetings are closed captioned and viewers will be able to see the captions on the live cablecasts and the replays. Call 703-324-5930, TTY 711 to purchase tapes of the meetings, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dtcs/channel16/vstream.htm to view meetings over the Internet from the past three months.

For more information, contact the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs 12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 551
Fairfax, VA 22035-0065
703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935
wwwopa@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations or alternative formats upon request. Call 703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935.

January 2004